



**Maryland Department of Transportation**  
**The Secretary's Office**

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**Michael S. Steele**  
Lt. Governor

**Robert L. Flanagan**  
Secretary

**James F. Ports, Jr.**  
Deputy Secretary

July 24, 2006

Mayor Sidney Katz  
City of Gaithersburg  
31 South Summit Avenue  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Dear Mayor Katz,

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) has reviewed your request to realign the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) in the Crown Farm area along Fields Road and Decoverly Drive. While the MTA cannot formally "approve" the realignment, we do agree that the proposal presented by the City has merit and could prove mutually beneficial to the CCT project and the proposed development.

To be eligible for federal funds, MTA is following the Federal Transit Administration project development process when considering alternative alignments. As such, we cannot formally select a final alignment and transit alternative at this time. The first step in the process is to complete the Alternative Analysis phase, followed by a selection of a preferred alternative. This process should be completed in 2007. However, FTA will only concur with the selection of the alternative, but does not give its full approval. The full approval comes when FTA issues its Record of Decision (ROD) after the completion of the Preliminary Engineering phase with the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Since this new alignment has merit and a possible change in the alignment was noted in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement based on the development of this property, MTA will include the new alignment in the evaluation process.

The proposed realignment and associated additional structure will add to the cost of the project. It is our hope that we can continue to work with the City and developer to keep this cost increase to a minimum. MTA recognizes and appreciates the developer's willingness to pay for and construct the necessary 250 parking spaces for transit users at the new station, a hiker/biker trail from the I-270 bridge across the property, provide right-of-way for the CCT construction along Crown Farm property, and all related transitway stormwater management requirements be incorporated into the proposed development. The developer's willingness to provide these facilities at no cost to the project will aid to offset negative aspects related to the realignment. MTA requests that the City include these items as requirements in the annexation agreement with the developer, making these items a legal obligation.

My telephone number is 410-866-1000  
Toll Free Number 1-888-713-1414 TTY User Call Via MD Relay  
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076

PENGAD 800-631-6369

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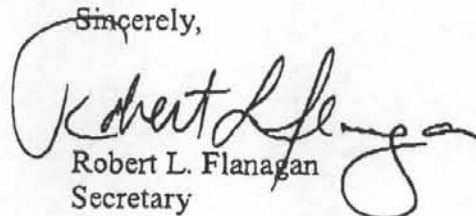
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The proposed realignment appears to improve the overall development layout and effectively concentrates densities around the new station location. It is expected that ridership will increase as a result. However, the additional transit travel time associated with this slightly longer alignment will likely reduce transit ridership from points north of this location. The City can minimize this negative impact by requiring the developer to eliminate median crossings along Fields Road and Discoverly Drive. It is important that the transit vehicles not be slowed due to automobile traffic. Any median crossings that remain will likely require safety equipment such as gates, bells, and lights that will give transit vehicles priority. These conditions will also apply to the proposed roundabout at the Fields Road/Discoverly Drive intersection. We ask that these conditions be included in the developer's traffic analysis to the City for approval.

Direct and convenient pedestrian access to and from the new transit station is an important factor in promoting higher usage of the transit system. We stress the importance of the developer incorporating sidewalks and trails into the development layout that would provide safe and easy access to the station. We specifically want to note and strongly encourage that improved pedestrian access be provided between the new transit station and residential buildings and commercial establishments located between Fields Road and I-270, as these are attractive destinations.

MTA will continue to work with your staff and hope to reach a final agreement on the project plan that best serves all involved. Thank you for your efforts in supporting and promoting the CCT project. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ernie Baisden at 410-767-3752 or Ms. MaryAnne Polkiewicz at 410-767-3426.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Flanagan  
Secretary

cc: Mr. Ernie Baisden, Manager, Project Development Division, Maryland Transit Administration  
Ms. MaryAnne Polkiewicz, Project Manager, Maryland Transit Administration